

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 29, 2006, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lindholm et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,015,913; hereinafter "Lindholm '913"); claims 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,550,962; hereinafter "Nakamura"); claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable given Nakamura in light of what is presumed to be Officially Noticed as being known to those having ordinary skill in the art; claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for lack of clarity; claims 9, 12 and 13 were held allowable but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; and claims 14-21 and 23-25 were allowed. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that various amendments to the specification have been made above to correct typographical errors, which amendments do not add new subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification is in suitable condition to support allowance.

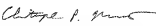
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 14-21 and 23-25, as well as the allowability of claims 9, 12 and 13. Although Applicants traverse the various bases for the rejections of claims 1-8, 10 and 11, these claims have been canceled above without prejudice in the interest of expediently obtaining issuance of claims 14-21 and 23-25. The cancellation of these claims renders moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing application concerning the subject matter embraced by claims 1-8, 10 and 11. Furthermore, as suggested by Examiner, claims 9, 12 and 13 have been amended above to incorporate the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Further still, the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph has been

obviated in light of the amendments above. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submit that remaining claims 9, 12-21 and 23-25 are in suitable condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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